

two subspecies for *F. viviparoidea* based on Pavlick (Can. J. Bot. 62: 2448–2462. 1984), taxonomic uncertainties persist (Aiken et al. *Festuca* of North America: descriptions, illustrations, identification, and information retrieval. Version: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2005. <http://delta-intkey.com>. 1996–).

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## REVIEW

*Native Treasures: Gardening With the Plants of California.* By MICHAEL NEVIN SMITH. 2006. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA. 288 pp. ISBN 0-520-24425-2 \$60.00, hardcover. ISBN 0-520-24426-9 \$24.95, paperback.

Michael Nevin Smith, Director of Horticulture at Suncrest Nurseries, Inc., is a well-respected plantsman and propagator. Attributes that make him outstanding in his field—his attention to detail, powers of observation & nurturing spirit are beautifully conveyed throughout *Native Treasures: Gardening with the Plants of California*. Thoughtful and lyrical prose—make this book a thoroughly engaging enjoyable practical, yet literary adventure. Its strength unquestionably rests on the fact that the author has such a strong personal presence within its pages.

In the introductory chapter, Smith focuses upon California's botanical heritage, shaped by the forces of climate, and environment—ultimately providing his own compelling rationale for cultivating native plants. Subsequent chapters “Designs Great and Small” and “Nuts and Bolts” relate the design process to the selected species' origins to best methods of planting and cultivation. “Filling Your Garden: Propagation

of Native Plants” generally describes propagation techniques honed with Smith's years of experience.

For many years, Mr. Smith contributed articles to the journal of the California Native Plant Society on some of the more prominent and desirable of California's genera. These have provided the basis for the plant profiles in “A Few of My Favorite Things”. This section is divided into “Trees,” “Shrubs,” “Subshrubs and Herbaceous Perennials,” “Bulbs and Corms,” and “Annuals” —and each further divided into “Ode to an Oak,” for example; “Sages for the Senses”, or “Fragrant Clouds of Lupine.” Each plant entry consists of a vibrant description, including notable characteristics of the genus, additional cultivars, typical natural habitat as well as cultural preferences along with enlightening photographs. Most prized is the inclusion of each genus' specific time-tested propagation techniques—information that is hard to come by and to be treasured when shared.

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